Atty. Docket No. DP-302096 (DEL01 P-333)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

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MAY 1 4 2003

Technology Center 2600

Art Unit	:	2654
Examiner	:	Angela A. Armstrong
Applicants	:	Scott A. Deyoe et al.
Appln. No.	:	09/483,699
Filed	:	January 14, 2000
Confirmation No.	:	8714
For	:	SPEECH RECOGNITION WITH USER SPECIFIC ADAPTIVE VOICE FEEDBACK

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF
(PATENT APPLICATION - 37 CFR §1.192)

1.   Transmitted herewith, in triplicate, is the APPELLANTS' BRIEF in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on March 11, 2003.

2.   **STATUS OF APPLICANTS**

This application is on behalf of:

_x_ other than a small entity.

___ a small entity.

A verified statement:

___ is attached.

___ was already filed.

3.   **FEE FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF**

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(c), the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is:

___ small entity $160.00

_x_ other than a small entity $320.00

Appeal Brief fee due: $320.00

4.   **EXTENSION OF TERM**

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR §1.136 apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

(a)   ___   Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136:

Extension (months)	Fee for other than small entity	Fee for small entity
___ one month	$110.00	$55.00
___ two months	$400.00	$200.00
___ three months	$920.00	$720.00
___ four months	$1,960.00	$980.00

FEE: $_____

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

(b)   _x_   Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

5.   **TOTAL FEE DUE**

The total fee due is:

Appeal Brief fee: $320.00

Extension fee (if any) $_____

TOTAL FEE DUE: $320.00

6.   FEE PAYMENT

  x   Attached is a check in the sum of $320.00.

  __   Charge Account No. 16-2463 the sum of $320.00.

      A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

7.   FEE DEFICIENCY

  x   If any additional extension and/or fee is required, this is a request therefor and to charge Account No. 16-2463.

and/or

  x   If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Account No. 16-2463.
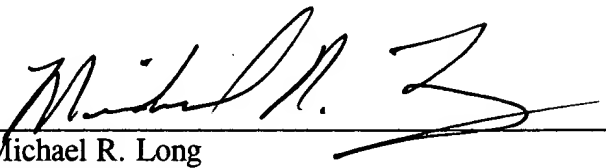
Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT A. DEYOE ET AL.

By: PRICE, HENEVELD, COOPER, DEWITT & LITTON

05-09-03
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APPELLANTS' BRIEF (37 CFR §1.192)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on March 11, 2003.

The fees required under §1.17(c), and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefor, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief is filed in triplicate. (37 CFR §1.192(a)).

This brief contains these items under the following headings, and in the order set forth below (37 CFR §1.192(c)):

VIII. Argument

    A.   U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 issued to Surace et al.

    B.   U.S. Patent No. 6,336,091 issued to Polikaitis et al.

    C.   U.S. Patent No. 6,240,347 issued to Everhart et al.

    D.   Legal Considerations

IX. Conclusion

Appendix of Claims (double spaced) Involved in the Appeal

The final page of this brief bears the attorney's signature.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this application is Delphi Technologies, Inc.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

Appellants are aware of no appeals or interferences that would directly affect or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on, the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. Status of Claims

This is an appeal from a Final Rejection of claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-40 and 42-48 of the above-identified application. Claims 9, 24 and 41 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 7, 21, 22, 38 and 39 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Appealed claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-40 and 42-48 are attached in the Appendix hereto.

IV. Status of Amendments

The Amendment to the claims of June 27, 2002, has been entered in this application.

V. Summary of the Invention

A speech recognition system (100) designed according to the present invention provides adaptive voice feedback that is appropriate for the experience level of a user (see pg. 7, lns. 25-31). For example, if the user is inexperienced, the system (100) provides voice feedback at each level. However, if a user is experienced, the user can provide continuous voice input to the system (100) and the system (100) will not provide voice feedback to the user. This allows a novice user to begin immediately using the speech recognition system (100) without having to first study a user's guide. By monitoring the time since a voice input was last received (to determine whether to activate the adaptive voice feedback), the system (100) can be advantageously used with a wide range of users with different experience levels.

One embodiment of the present invention is directed to a method 400 (see Figs. 4A-4C; pg. 9, ln. 10 through pg. 13, ln. 17) for providing user specific adaptive voice feedback in a multi-level speech recognition driven system 100 (see Fig. 1). The method 400 includes the steps of: detecting whether a user of the speech recognition driven system has provided a voice input (steps 412, 426 and 440); determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user that is recognized (step 406) by the speech recognition driven system (100); providing adaptive voice feedback (steps 420, 434 and 448) to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period (specific user profile, i.e., idle timer and pass variables, is set in step 408 and steps 414, 416 and 418; steps 428, 430 and 432; and steps 442, 444 and 446 implement this function) wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent (steps 420, 434 and 448) and provides available commands for a current level; determining whether the voice input provided by the user is recognized (steps 422, 436 and 450) by the speech recognition driven system (100); and performing a speech selectable task (step 452) when the voice input provided by the user corresponds to a speech selectable task that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system (100).

Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to a speech recognition driven system (100) that implements the above-described method. By determining whether a voice input is associated with a <u>specific user</u> that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system (100) it is possible to implement <u>predetermined user specific time periods</u> in which to provide user specific adaptive voice feedback (see pg. 9, ln. 31 through pg. 10, ln. 4).

VI. Issues

The issues are:

A.   The first issue on appeal is whether claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, 16-20, 23 and 25-31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 issued to Surace et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,091 issued to Polikaitis et al.

B.   The second issue on appeal is whether claims 15, 32-37, 40 and 42-48 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 issued to Surace et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,091 issued to Polikaitis et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,347 issued to Everhart et al.

VII. Grouping of Claims

For purposes of this appeal, the claims are broken down into the following groups:

1.   Claims 1, 8, 10-12, 15, 16, 23, 25-27, 30-32, 33, 40, 42-44, 47 and 48 stand or fall together; and

2.   Claims 2-7, 13, 14, 17-22, 28, 29, 34-39, 45 and 46 stand or fall together.

VIII. Arguments

The two groups of claims identified above stand or fall separately from one another based upon different patentable features recited in the claims of each particular group. The specific

reasons why the two groups of claims do not stand or fall together are because the Group I claims are generally directed to a system and method for providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period, wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent and provides available commands for a current level, while the Group II claims are more specifically directed to tracking the number of times in which a user has failed to respond for a predetermined user specific time period at a given level and deactivating a speech recognition driven system when the user has failed to respond for a user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods at the given level.

In the arguments below, brief descriptions are provided for each of the applied references, followed by Appellants' arguments as to why a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, 16-20, 23 and 25-31 has not been established based upon U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 issued to Surace et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,091 issued to Polikaitis et al. and why a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 15, 32-37, 40 and 42-48 has not been established based upon U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 issued to Surace et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,091 issued to Polikaitis et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,347 issued to Everhart et al.

A. U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 issued to Surace et al.

The Surace et al. patent discloses a voice user interface with personality that may be implemented within a telephone system to provide functionality and services, e.g., an email service, a news content service, a stock quote service and a voice mail service. Surace defines the term "personality," at col. 3, lns. 23-36, as "the totality of spoken language characteristics that simulate the collective character, behavioral, temperamental, emotional, and mental traits of human beings in a way that would be recognized by psychologists and social scientists as consistent and relevant to a particular personality type. For example, personality types include

the following: friendly-dominant, friendly-submissive, unfriendly-dominant, and unfriendly-submissive." Thus, depending upon a specific user's preference, the Surace system can provide an appropriate personality for its voice interface.

Surace discloses utilizing a login and password to determine the identity of a particular user (see Fig. 18 and col. 22, ln. 50 through col. 23, ln. 12) such that the user can then be provided with a subscriber specific prompt, i.e., a friendly-dominant message, a friendly-submissive message, an unfriendly-dominant message and unfriendly-submissive message. The prompt provided to the user can then be lengthened or shortened based on the user's experience with the voice user interface (col. 9, lns. 13-19). The voice user interface with personality 103 receives input data signals 904 that include speech signals, which correspond to commands from a user (col. 12, lns. 45-48). The voice user interface with personality 103 outputs data signals that include voice signals, which correspond to greetings and responses to the subscriber (col. 12, ln. 66 through col. 13, ln. 1). The voice user interface may also provide a list of available commands (see col. 42, lns. 11-16, col. 43, lns. 35-44, claims 32, 60, 69 and 97). In one embodiment, a voice user interface with personality 1002 transitions to a main state after a successful logon. The main state 1800 includes a time-out handler state 1880 for time-out situations, e.g., a user has not provided a response within a predetermined period of time (col. 22, lns 50-60).

B.   U.S. Patent No. 6,336,091 issued to Polikaitis et al.

The Polikaitis et al. patent is directed to a communication device (100) that screens speech input prior to processing the input with voice recognition technology. The device (100) includes a microprocessor (110) that is programmed to compare speech waveform parameters to determine whether an error exists in a signal format of a speech signal and, if so, instructs the user how to correct the signal format to eliminate the error. The microprocessor (110) analyzes speech signals to determine speech waveform parameters, e.g., speech energy, noise energy,

start energy, end energy, and a percentage of clipped speech samples, within a speech acquisition window, i.e., a predetermined time period for receiving voice communication (col. 3, lns. 54-62). By comparing speech waveform parameters with threshold values, the microprocessor (110) provides error information to a user (e.g., speak louder, speak slower, start speaking later, finish speaking earlier), when an error exists in the signal format. The microprocessor (110) may deactivate or halt the speech recognition process to allow a user to correct an error in speech signal format. Alternatively, the microprocessor (110) may continue processing speech and provide a warning to the user that the speech recognition output may not be correct. The speech recognition technology may be activated upon turn-on of the device (100), by a mechanical or electrical switch, or by a voice command. In one embodiment, the microprocessor (110) may lengthen a speech acquisition window in response to a user speaking over an end of a speech acquisition window (see col. 9, lns. 48-52).

C.   U.S. Patent No. 6,240,347 issued to Everhart et al.

The Everhart et al. patent is directed to a voice activated system that is integrated with a display/control unit that includes dedicated and reconfigurable push buttons. When integrated within a motor vehicle, a motor vehicle occupant may control a plurality of motor vehicle accessories through voice input or manual input.

D.   Legal Considerations

1. REJECTION OF GROUP I CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention recited in claims 1, 8, 10-12, 15, 16, 23, 25-27, 30-32, 33, 40, 42-44, 47 and 48 over the teachings of Surace et al. as combined with Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al. Section 2143 of the latest revision of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedures*

(MPEP) states the following regarding the requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness:

> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. [emphasis added]
> The teachings or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). [emphasis added]

Appellants submit that the cited combinations do not teach or suggest all the claimed features of the invention and, for this reason, Appellants submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

With respect to the combination of the Surace et al., Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al. patents as applied to claims 1, 16 and 33, Appellants submit that the combination does not teach or suggest a method and/or system that provides adaptive voice feedback based upon a user specific time period. While Surace discloses providing voice feedback based on the selection by a user of a desired personality, the voice feedback is not based on a predetermined user specific time period. Further, the fact that Polikaitis discloses a predetermined time period for receiving a voice communication, i.e., a speech acquisition window, does not teach or suggest providing adaptive voice feedback based on a user specific time period. In sum, the combination of Surace, Polikaitis and Everhart does not teach or suggest user specific time periods and, as such, cannot teach or suggest providing adaptive voice feedback that is provided based upon user specific time periods. Appellants note that claims 8, 10-12, 15, 23, 25-27, 30-32, 40, 42-44, 47 and 48 depend upon allowable claims and, at least for this reason, are also allowable.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Appellants submit that claims 1, 8, 10-12, 15, 16, 23, 25-27, 30-32, 33, 40, 42-44, 47 and 48 are allowable over the teachings of Surace et al. as combined with Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al., and, thus, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be overturned.

2. REJECTION OF GROUP II CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention recited in claims 2-7, 13, 14, 17-22, 28, 29, 34-39, 45 and 46 over the teachings of Surace et al. as combined with Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al.

With respect to the combination of the Surace et al., Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al. patents as applied to claims 2, 17 and 34, Appellants submit that the combination does not teach or suggest a method/system that tracks the number of times in which a user has failed to respond for a predetermined user specific timer period at a given level. Further, Appellants submit that the combination does not teach or suggest a method/system that deactivates a speech recognition driven system when a user has failed to respond for a user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods at a given level. In sum, the combination does not teach or suggest user specific time periods, nor does the combination teach or suggest different user specific time periods for different levels. Additionally, the combination does not teach or suggest deactivating a speed recognition driver system based upon a user failing to respond for a user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods at a given level. As noted above, Surace merely discloses deactivating a system for time-out situations, e.g., where a user has not responded for a predetermined time period. Appellants note that the predetermined time period of Surace is not user specific.

With respect to the combination of the Surace et al., Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al. patents as applied to claims 5, 20 and 37, Appellants submit that the combination does not teach or suggest a method/system that adjusts the predetermined user specific time period and the user

specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods as the ability of a specific user changes. Appellants note that while Surace discloses lengthening or shortening a prompt based upon a user's experience with a voice interface, this does not teach or suggest adjusting a user specific predetermined time period or adjusting a user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods which control the deactivation of a speech recognition driver system.

With respect to the combination of the Surace et al., Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al. patents as applied to claims 13, 28 and 45, Appellants submit that the combination does not teach or suggest a method/system with predetermined user specific time periods and user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods that are level dependent.

With respect to the combination of the Surace et al., Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al. patents as applied to claims 14, 29 and 46, Appellants submit that the combination does not teach or suggest a method/system with predetermined user specific time periods and a user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods that are dialog branch dependent. Appellants note that claims 3, 4, 18, 19, 35 and 36 depend upon allowable claims and, at least for this reason, are also allowable.

In sum, Appellants submit that the combination of these references does not teach or suggest all the claimed features of the invention. For these reasons, Appellants submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

For the reasons discussed above, Appellants submit that claims 2-7, 13, 14, 17-22, 28, 29, 34-39, 45 and 46 are allowable over the teachings of Surace et al. as combined with Polikaitis et al. and Everhart et al., and, thus, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should also be overturned.

Applicants   : David G. Studt et al.
Appln. No.   : 09/648,972
Page   : 11

IX.   Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, and as apparent from examining the invention defined by claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-40 and 42-48, when properly considering the cited references, these claims define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, reversal of the rejections of the claims under §103(a) is appropriate and is respectfully solicited.
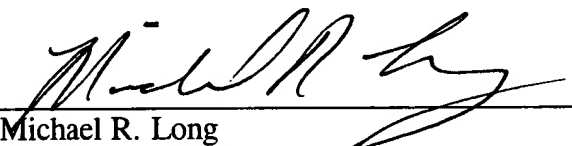
Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix of Claims (37 CFR §1.192(c)(9))

1. (Amended) A method for providing user specific adaptive voice feedback in a multi-level speech recognition driven system, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether a user of the speech recognition driven system has provided a voice input;

determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system;

providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period, wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent and provides available commands for a current level;

determining whether the voice input provided by the user is recognized by the speech recognition driven system; and

performing a speech selectable task when the voice input provided by the user corresponds to a speech selectable task that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

2. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

tracking the number of times in which the user has failed to respond for the predetermined user specific time period at a given level; and

deactivating the speech recognition driven system when the user has failed to respond

for a user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods at the given

level.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein if a voice input is not associated with a

specific user the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of

the predetermined user specific time periods are set to default values.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the speech recognition system utilizes

voice recognition technology in determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific

user.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined user specific time

period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods are

adjusted by the speech recognition driven system as the ability of a specific user changes.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein a neural network is utilized to adjust the

predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined

user specific time periods when the ability of a specific user changes.

7.   The method of claim 5, wherein fuzzy logic is utilized to adjust the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods when the ability of a specific user changes.

8.   The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

deactivating the speech recognition driven system when the voice input from the user is not recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

9. (Cancelled)

10.   The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

activating the speech recognition driven system.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the speech recognition driven system is switch activated.

12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the speech recognition driven system is voice activated.

13.   The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods are level dependent.

14.   The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods are dialog branch dependent.

15.   The method of claim 1, wherein the speech selectable task is performed by a motor vehicle accessory.

16.   (Amended) A multi-level speech recognition driven system for providing user specific adaptive voice feedback, comprising:

a memory subsystem for storing information;

a processor coupled to the memory subsystem;

an audio input device coupled to the processor, the input device receiving a voice input from a user;

an audio output device coupled to the processor, the output device providing adaptive voice feedback to the user; and

speech recognition code for causing the processor to perform the steps of:

detecting whether a user of the speech recognition driven system has provided a voice input;

determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system;

providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period, wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent and provides available commands for a current level;

determining whether the voice input provided by the user is recognized by the speech recognition driven system; and

performing a speech selectable task when the voice input provided by the user corresponds to a speech selectable task that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the speech recognition code causes the processor to perform the additional steps of:

tracking the number of times in which the user has failed to respond for the predetermined user specific time period at a given level; and

deactivating the speech recognition driven system when the user has failed to respond for a user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods at the given level.

18.   The system of claim 17, wherein if a voice input is not associated with a specific user the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods are set to default values.

19.   The system of claim 17, wherein the speech recognition system utilizes voice recognition technology in determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user.

20.   The system of claim 19, wherein the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods are adjusted by the speech recognition driven system as the ability of a specific user changes.

21.   The system of claim 20, wherein a neural network is utilized to adjust the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods when the ability of a specific user changes.

22.   The system of claim 20, wherein fuzzy logic is utilized to adjust the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods when the ability of a specific user changes.

23. The system of claim 16, wherein the speech recognition code causes the processor to perform the additional step of:

deactivating the speech recognition driven system when the voice input from the user is not recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

24. (Cancelled)

25. The system of claim 16, wherein the speech recognition code causes the processor to perform the additional step of:

activating the speech recognition driven system.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the speech recognition driven system is switch activated.

27. The system of claim 25, wherein the speech recognition driven system is voice activated.

28. The system of claim 17, wherein the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods are level dependent.

29. The system of claim 17, wherein the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods are dialog branch dependent.

30. The system of claim 16, wherein the audio input device is a microphone.

31. The system of claim 16, wherein the audio output device is a speaker.

32. The system of claim 16, wherein the speech selectable task is performed by a motor vehicle accessory.

33. (Amended) A multi-level speech recognition driven system for controlling motor vehicle accessories that provides user specific adaptive voice feedback, comprising:

a memory subsystem for storing information;

a processor coupled to the memory subsystem;

a motor vehicle accessory coupled to the processor;

an audio input device coupled to the processor, the input device receiving a voice input from a user;

an audio output device coupled to the processor, the output device providing adaptive voice feedback to the user; and

speech recognition code for causing the processor to perform the steps of:

detecting whether a user of the speech recognition driven system has provided a voice input;

determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system;

providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period, wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent and provides available commands for a current level;

determining whether the voice input provided by the user is recognized by the speech recognition driven system; and

controlling the motor vehicle accessory according to a speech selectable task when the voice input provided by the user corresponds to a speech selectable task that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the speech recognition code causes the processor to perform the additional steps of:

tracking the number of times in which the user has failed to respond for the predetermined user specific time period at a given level; and

deactivating the speech recognition driven system when the user has failed to respond

for a user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods at the given

level.

35.   The system of claim 34, wherein if a voice input is not associated with a

specific user the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of

the predetermined user specific time periods are set to default values.

36.   The system of claim 34, wherein the speech recognition system utilizes

voice recognition technology in determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific

user.

37.   The system of claim 36, wherein the predetermined user specific time

period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods are

adjusted by the speech recognition driven system as the ability of a specific user changes.

38.   The system of claim 37, wherein a neural network is utilized to adjust

the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the

predetermined user specific time periods when the ability of a specific user changes.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein fuzzy logic is utilized to adjust the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods when the ability of a specific user changes.

40. The system of claim 33, wherein the speech recognition code causes the processor to perform the additional step of:

deactivating the speech recognition driven system when the voice input from the user is not recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

41. (Cancelled)

42. The system of claim 33, wherein the speech recognition code causes the processor to perform the additional step of:

activating the speech recognition driven system.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the speech recognition driven system is switch activated.

44. The system of claim 42, wherein the speech recognition driven system is voice activated.

45. The system of claim 34, wherein the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of the predetermined user specific time periods are level dependent.

46. The system of claim 34, wherein the predetermined user specific time period and the user specific set number of predetermined user specific time periods are dialog branch dependent.

47. The system of claim 33, wherein the audio input device is a microphone.

48. The system of claim 33, wherein the audio output device is a speaker.